Export of services

*98. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up with W.T.O. the matter regarding elimination of existing barriers to services exports; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has" taken up at the World Trade Organisation the need to eliminate barriers to trade in services, both through movement of natural persons and through cross-border trade. These steps include proposals on liberalisation of movement of professionals, securing access for provision of remote services and specific requests to important trading partners on sectors of interest to India, including *inter alia,* Computer Related Services, Architecture, Health Services, Accountancy Services and Engineering Services, Martitime Transport Services, Financial Services and others. On these matters, India is working together with like-minded countries in the conext of the on-going mandated negotiations for achieving progressive liberalisation of trade in Services. The outcome of these efforts cannot be judged at this stage since negotiations on these matters are underway at the WTO.

Provisions for free schooling

*99. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether compulsory and free schooling of children between the age of six to fourteen years has been initiated;

(b) if so, the progress made so far; and

(c) the measures taken to achieve the goal of universalisation of the elementary schooling by exploring the resources to make the right to education a reality?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002 has been enacted which has, *inter alia,* inserted a new Article 21-A in Part III